

1981

News, Notes, Comments

North American Bird Bander

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Recommended Citation

North American Bird Bander (1981) "News, Notes, Comments," *North American Bird Bander*. Vol. 6 : Iss. 3 , Article 7.

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News, Notes, Comments

1982 EBBA/NEBBA Joint Meeting

Dates: 16—18 April

Location: Frost Valley YMCA
Oliverea, NY 12462

(Oliverea is located in the Catskill Forest Preserve, about 20 miles NE of Liberty, NY.)

Hosts: Mr. & Mrs. Cheryl Marion

Phone: 1-914-985-7400

Costs: (approximate) for 2 nights & 5 meals; per person
cabins/lodges \$39.00
Castle/Margetts \$58.00

WBBA 1982 Annual Meeting

Dates: 23—25 April

Location: Logan, Utah

Joint meeting with Cooper Ornithological Society.

For details, see WBBA President's Message.

Attention: California banders

The California Fish and Game Commission has recently (18 August 1981) made revisions in the regulations regarding banding in California (Title 14, subsection 653(b)).

Now, "permittees who possess a federal [banding] permit, but who do not possess a state permit, may band with a federal leg band only, but shall immediately release, raptorial birds inadvertently captured." Similarly, "any endangered, threatened, rare or fully protected birds that are inadvertently captured during routine marking operations may be banded with a federal leg band only and shall be immediately released at the site of capture." However, "resident game birds so taken shall be immediately released unmarked in any manner."

A state permit is required only for those who intend to capture and mark raptorial birds (orders Falconiformes and Strigiformes); a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Fish and Game is required to capture and band any species designated as: endangered or threatened by the Secretary of the Interior, or endangered, rare or fully protected by the State of California.

Wildlife Film Festival

The University of Montana Chapter of The Wildlife Society is sponsoring the annual International Wildlife Film Festival for its fifth year. The Festival was established in 1977 to encourage the production of high quality wildlife films, to improve their biological and educational content, and to further relate the natural sciences to human cultural development.

To be eligible for the 1982 competition, films must have been produced or released in 1981 and be primarily about wildlife (a single species or combination of species). Films on habitat or research will be accepted if they concentrate on the wildlife species involved. Films in the professional and amateur categories are judged on artistic quality, art form, biological accuracy, and message. *Deadline for entry is 19 March 1982.*

The Festival Committee was contemplating a category for films produced or released in years prior to 1981 which have not been entered. We are sorry to inform you that we will not have that this year due to a lack of funds.

The festival itself will be held 16-18 April 1982 at the University of Montana in Missoula. The public will have the opportunity to view the winning films, along with attending panels and workshops on film making, wildlife, and related problems.

For information on any aspect of the Festival, write or call Wildlife Film Festival, Wildlife Biology Program, University of Montana, Missoula, Montana 59812. (406) 243-5272.

Request for assistance: House Finches

Differences have been noted in the size and shape of House Finch bills which may be correlated with foods required by that species in different parts of its range. Information is needed on the kinds of food eaten, particularly the size and hardness of items eaten during periods of the year when food is most likely to be in short supply.

Information on kinds of food eaten most frequently, with date and locality of observation, should be sent to John W. Aldrich, Room E-606 National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C. 20560.

Sightings wanted

Juvenile Black Terns were color banded in 1981 as part of a study of energetics. Birds carry an aluminum FWS band on one leg and one or two color bands on the other. Colors used this year are green, blue, yellow, and red. Observers are asked to report the date, time, location, activity, color band sequence, and their name and address to the BBL and Betty-Ann Chapman, Dept. Biological Sciences, Simon-Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada V5A 1S6.

White-fronted Geese were marked in July 1981 with yellow plastic neck collars bearing a black number/number/letter code, to be read left to right and bottom to top. The birds were collared on the Yukon Delta NWR in western Alaska to determine winter distribution.

612 Pacific Black Brant were marked in 1979-81 with blue or yellow neck collars with letter/number/letter codes on the Seward Peninsula and Yukon Delta NWR, Alaska, to identify breeding locations of birds wintering in Washington and Oregon.

If you observe collared birds of either species, please record: date and location; collar color and letter/number symbols; behavior of bird; status of bird (with birds of same/different species, paired, flock size, with other collared birds, etc.).

For Geese, please notify the BBL and Dennis Raveling, Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries Biology, Univ. of California, Davis, CA 95616; for Brant, notify Dirk V. Derksen, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1011 East Tudor Rd., Anchorage, AK 99503.

Nestling egrets, herons, ibises, anhingas, and cormorants in inland colonies of Texas were banded and color marked this summer, initiating a long-term project to determine many aspects of population dynamics. The birds have 1" x 2" (2.5 x 5.1 cm) red or yellow tags attached to bands placed above the intertarsal joints. The tags, made of Herculite "80", should remain attached for several years. Other colors will be used in future years. Observer reports will be appreciated. Please note tag color and attachment on right or left leg, date, and place, and report to the BBL and Ray C. Telfair II, Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, Texas A&M Univ., College Station, TX 77843.

Common Tern colour-marking by the Canadian Wildlife Service

During 1981, Dr. Hans Blokpoel of the Canadian Wildlife Service colour-marked Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo*) at two large colonies in the Great Lakes area, with the objective of determining the year-round distribution of the birds, especially their migration routes and wintering areas in Latin America. Adult Common Terns were trapped on their nests at the Eastern Headland of the Toronto Outer Harbour (Lake Ontario) and at Tower Island (Niagara River). Orange plastic tags were attached to both wings of the trapped adult birds. In addition, young Common Terns were marked with pink plastic wing tags at those colonies. One standard metal leg band and one coloured plastic leg band (yellow with a black horizontal stripe) were put on each of the tagged birds.

If you see a Common Tern with a pink or orange wing tag, please record the following details: place, date and colour of the tag. If possible, also record the combination of numbers and/or letters on the tag (the two tags on any bird have the same color and the same combination of letters and numbers) and note which legs the plastic and metal leg bands are on. Thank you very much for your assistance. All reports will be acknowledged and should be sent to:

Bird Banding Office
Canadian Wildlife Service
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada KIA OE7

Research Grants

The Eastern Bird Banding Association and the Western Bird Banding Association are each offering a research grant of \$250 in aid of research using bird banding techniques or bird banding data. Applicants should submit a resumé of his or her banding or ornithological background, the project plan, and a budget to the joint selection committee chairman: Robert C. Leberman, Powdermill Nature Reserve, Star Route South, Rector, PA 15677.

No formal application forms are available, and the amount requested should not exceed \$250. The deadline for receipt of applications is 15 March 1982.

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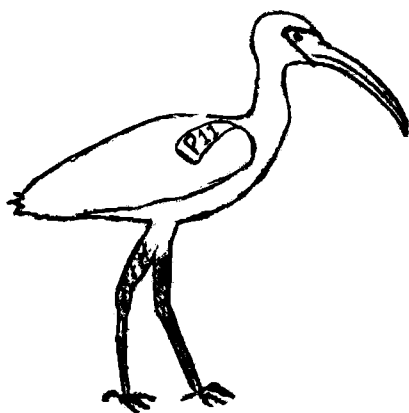
Nautical owls surface inland

On 29 June 1980, I banded 2 nestling Barn Owls (*Tyto alba*) in a marina in Stratford, CT. The peculiar nest location prompted me to write a short article for inclusion in NABB (See *Nautical Owls*, NABB 6:18).

Shortly after that issue reached its subscribers in 1981, Fred Sibley of the Peabody Museum in New Haven, CT called to report that one of the banded young owls was observed by Clay Taylor at a nest site in a belfrey at a local college in Middletown, CT. While observing the nest site, Taylor noticed that one of the parent birds was banded. It took several days to get close enough to the bird to record the band number. Sibley, who had just finished reading the NABB article, noticed the coinciding band numbers and called to report the encounter.

The encounter itself was a complete surprise; learning that this bird, only in its first year, was raising a family of its own was more of a shock. It did not move very far from its shoreline birthplace, as Middletown is about 36 miles (57 km) northeast and 20 miles (32 km) inland from Stratford. The whereabouts of its sibling is as yet unknown, but someday it, too, may surface somewhere.

Carl Trichka
65 Glover St., Fairfield, CT 06430



Wanted: Slides of raptors

As part of a program to educate the public regarding birds of prey, I give lectures to school classes, scouts, senior citizens' groups, etc. However, my file of raptor slides is incomplete, and funds to purchase them are not available to me.

If anyone has duplicate slides which he or she would be willing to donate, I would be most appreciative. One slide of an adult, showing identifying features, would suit my purposes.

Those hawks for which I lack slides are: Ferruginous Hawk, Harlan's Hawk, White-tailed Hawk, Grey Hawk, Black Hawk, Zone-tailed Hawk, Caracara, and all the kites.

Owls needed are: Whiskered Owl, Flammulated Owl, Ferruginous Owl, and Elf Owl.

Don G. Follen, Sr.
Route 1, Box 96
Arpin, WI 54410

White Ibis Sightings

350 juvenile White Ibis have been tagged with orange wing flags near Georgetown, South Carolina. Little is known about their post-fledging dispersal and migration; a report of any sightings would be very useful and much appreciated, even if you cannot distinguish the number.

Marked birds are in juvenile (brown) and adult (white) plumages. Tags are on one wing only and have black numbers and, in many cases, letters in combination with numbers.

If you see any of these birds, please send the date, location, and tag number to the BBL and Peter Frederick, c/o Zoology Dept. Wilson Hall 046-A, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514